

# Supportive Assistance to *Individuals & Families* (SAIF)



**If you reach your five-year time limit on cash assistance, here are some important things you should know:**

**You may be able to get an exemption from the time limit** if you are: permanently disabled; the only caretaker of a disabled person; a victim of family/domestic violence; chronically unemployable; or over the age of 60.

**If you do not qualify for an exemption from the time limit**, you may qualify for *Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families (SAIF)*, a new program where you will still receive your cash grant plus support services you need. As part of this program, if you are not deferred, you will still be required to work or participate in a work activity. A case manager will keep in close contact with you to help you get a job and leave welfare.

## **You may be eligible for SAIF if:**

- You have cooperated with Work First NJ (WFNJ) requirements – like participating in work activities and meeting child support obligations – and you have tried to get a job but are still unemployed.
- You have experienced family/domestic violence; were sick or deferred from participating in WFNJ work-related activities for 12 months or longer; are currently deferred due to illness; or are six or more months pregnant *or*
- You have just lost your job, through no fault of your own, or because, for example, you couldn't find child care or you had a problem with transportation.

**To apply for services under SAIF**, you must submit an application to your County Welfare Office (or County Board of Social Services) or your Municipal Welfare Office. You must continue to work or participate in a work activity, unless you have a good reason not to. In return, you may receive up to 24 more months of cash benefits, plus services such as child care and transportation. If needed, mental health services and substance abuse treatment may also be available.

**If you are accepted into the SAIF program**, it is very important to cooperate with your case manager. Otherwise, you will not be able to continue getting a cash grant and other support services to help you and your family.



**To learn more about this new program and find out how to apply**, call your case manager or call your County Welfare Office/Board of Social Services or Municipal Welfare Office.

